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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MIDDLEWICH



**REPORT**  
**OF THE**  
**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**  
**AND**  
**PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR**  
  
**FOR THE YEAR 1961**



URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MIDDLEWICH

---

R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the

YEAR 1961



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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MIDDLEWICH

Chairman of the Council : Mr. W. Faulkner

HEALTH AND SEWERAGE COMMITTEE

Chairman

Councillor T.C. Costello

Councillor J.D. Blease

Councillor F. Buckley

Councillor H. Dale

Councillor Mrs. B.W. Moore

Councillor G.J.F. Stallard

Councillor J.A. Powell

Councillor F. Dodd

Councillor C.D. White

Councillor W. Faulkner

Councillor C. Hardman

Councillor J. Moss

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S T A F F

Medical Officer of Health

W.S. Slater, M.B., M.R.C.S., D.P.H., Retired: 31. 5. 62.

F. Seymour, M.B. Ch.B., D.P.H., Appointed: 13. 8. 62.

Other Appointments: The Medical Officer of Health is  
also Medical Officer of Health for Northwich Rural  
District Council, Northwich Urban District Council  
and Winsford Urban District Council

and Divisional Medical Officer to the  
Mid-Cheshire Division

Public Health Inspector

F. Costello



URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MIDDLEWICH

Telephone No.: Northwich 4251/2

Hartford Hill,  
Darwin Street,  
NORTHWICH,  
Cheshire.

September, 1962.

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Middlewich Urban District Council.

Dear Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the  
environmental health and sanitary circumstances of the Council's  
district for the year 1961.

I would like to express my appreciation of the help given  
me by Mr. Costello in introducing me to the District and for the  
considerable help he has given me in the preparation of this Report.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient servant,

F. SEYMOUR.

Medical Officer of Health





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SECTION I

GENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICS

(1) GENERAL STATISTICS

Population (estimated mid-year 1961)	6,940
Area (acres of District)	1,971
Number of inhabited dwellings	2,174
Rateable Value of Area	£90,477
Product of Penny Rate, 1961/62	£373

Comparative Statistics - 1960/61

	Year	
	1960	1961
Population	6,910	6,940
Rateable Value	£87,395	£90,477
Product of Penny Rate	£359	£373
Number of inhabited dwellings	2,173	2,174

(2) VITAL STATISTICS

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	51	53	104
Illegitimate	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>
	<u>53</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>108</u>

Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 population	15.6
+Corrected Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population (Comparability Factor 0.99)	15.4
Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total births	3.7

<u>Stillbirths</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
	2	-	2

<u>Total Live and Still Births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Live and Still Births	55	55	110

Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total live and still births 18.2

<u>Infant Deaths</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age	3	2	5

#### Infant Mortality Rates

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 total live births	46.3
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	48.1
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks) per 1,000 total live births	37.0
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week) per 1,000 total live births	27.8
Perinatal Mortality Rate (still births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)	45.5

#### Maternal Mortality (including abortion)

Maternal deaths	Nil
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	Nil

<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
All causes	46	39	85
Death Rate per 1,000 population			12.2
+Corrected Death Rate per 1,000 population (Comparability factor 1.17)			14.3

#### + NOTE:

The corrected birth and death rates are those which are obtained when the crude local rates are adjusted to make allowance for the way in which the sex and age distribution of the local population differs from that for England and Wales. The corrected rates are comparable with the crude rates for England and Wales, and the corresponding adjusted rates for any other area.



### Causes of Death

As will be seen from the following table the two principal causes of death were diseases of the heart and circulation which caused approximately 50% of the deaths, and cancer which caused approximately 25%.

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	-	-
2. Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-
3. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	1	2
4. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	6	-	6
5. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	1	1
6. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	1	1
7. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	5	6	11
8. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-	-
9. Diabetes	-	-	-
10. Vascular lesions of nervous system	5	6	11
11. Coronary disease, angina	11	5	16
12. Hypertension with heart disease	-	1	1
13. Other heart disease	4	9	13
14. Other circulatory disease	1	1	2
15. Influenza	2	1	3
16. Pneumonia	-	1	1
17. Bronchitis	2	1	3
18. Congenital malformations	1	1	2
19. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	4	2	6
20. Motor vehicle accidents	1	1	2
21. All other accidents	2	1	3
22. Suicide	1	-	1
	<u>46</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>85</u>

### Lung Cancer

The six deaths in 1961 compared with two in 1960 serve to remind us of the tragedies associated with what is to a large extent a preventable disease.

## SECTION II

### HEALTH SERVICES

#### (1) HOSPITAL SERVICES

The Middlewich Urban district lies within the area of the Manchester Regional Hospital Board, administered by the North & Mid-Cheshire Hospital Management Committee, whose offices are at Sinderland Road, Altrincham. Telephone number - Altrincham 4221/2.

#### (2) LABORATORY FACILITIES

Arrangements have now been made for Middlewich Water, Ice-cream and milk samples taken by the Health Department, to be submitted for examination at the Chester Public Health Laboratory, instead of as previously to the Manchester Service. Because of traffic conditions this new arrangement is less wasteful of the Inspector's time, the mileage covered being much the same.

#### (3) AMBULANCE SERVICE

The ambulance service is provided by the County Council and, since December, 1960, this service has been centrally controlled. Radio control of the ambulance service was instituted by the County Council when the responsibility was transferred from the Mid-Cheshire Divisional Health Committee to the Central County Ambulance Committee.

Middlewich Urban district is centrally situated between the depots of Northwich, Crewe and Congleton. The depots at Northwich and Crewe provide a 24 hour coverage for the whole area, the one at Congleton being a day station only. All 999 calls made by members of the public are immediately connected with the central control at County Hall, and by the use of two-way radio telephone such emergencies can be quickly and effectively covered. The arrangement for non-urgent calls is that the patient or general practitioner should ring the Northwich Depot - Telephone Number - Northwich 5090.

#### (4) MIDWIFERY AND HOME NURSING

This service is provided by the under-mentioned nurses:-

Mrs. M. Taylor,  
S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N.S.,

32, Sutton Lane,  
Middlewich.

Telephone No.

Middlewich 2350

		<u>Telephone No.</u>
Miss B. Breeze, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N.S.,	11, Coronation Road, Middlewich.	Middlewich 2549
Mrs. B. Dutton, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N.S., (Relief Nurse)	Walker's Green Farm, Sproston.	Middlewich 174

(5) CHILD WELFARE CENTRE AND HEALTH VISITOR

The Health Visitor for the Middlewich Urban District is:-

	<u>Telephone No.</u>
Miss M. Barlow, The Child Welfare Centre, 85, Wheelock Street, MIDDLEWICH.	Middlewich 165

Baby Clinics are held every Monday afternoon between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m., during which hours Welfare and Proprietary Foods are sold to mothers attending the Clinic. On Friday mornings between 9 a.m. and 11.45 a.m. Welfare Foods only, i.e. National Dried Milk and Orange Juice, are sold.

(6) Information concerning the other County Health Services in the area such as Home Help, Chiropody Service, Care and After Care equipment etc., can be obtained from the Divisional Medical Officer at Hartford Hill, Darwin Street, Northwich. Telephone number - Northwich 4251/2.

(7) Middlewich Urban District has its own "Over 60's" Club, which is organised entirely by Voluntary Workers. The Club, now in its 10th year, meets on alternate Wednesdays at 2.30 p.m. at the Congregational Club, and has approximately 130 members.



S E C T I O N    I I I

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948-1951

Section 47

Under this Section when persons (a) are suffering from grave chronic disease or, being aged, infirm or physically incapacitated, are living in insanitary conditions, and (b) are unable to devote to themselves, and are not receiving from other persons, proper care and attention, the local authority may apply to a court of summary jurisdiction for an Order to remove the person to a suitable place.

Section 50

Under this Section the District Council has the duty to arrange for the burial of any person who has died in their area, if no suitable arrangements for the disposal of the body are being made.

It was not necessary to take any action under either of these Sections during the year.



S E C T I O N    I V

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

(1) NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The incidence of Infectious Disease was low during the year.

DISEASE	Cases Notified	
	1961	1960
Measles	14	6
Whooping Cough	-	1
Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	1
Tuberculosis, other forms	-	1

The number of patients on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the years:

<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1958</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1961</u>
45	27	29	28	37	30	30	29	26	28	22	24

(2) B.C.G. PROTECTION AGAINST TUBERCULOSIS

In addition to the B.C.G. protection against tuberculosis as carried out at the local Chest Clinic on actual contacts to cases of tuberculosis and the vaccination of new-born babies at some maternity hospitals in Manchester, the parents of school children of the 12 - 13 years age group in the area are being offered this form of protective treatment. The response to date on the part of the parents to take advantage of this protection for their children has been good.

(3) MASS RADIOGRAPHY UNIT

The Mass Radiography Unit visited the Middlewich Urban District between the 16th and 28th August, 1961. This was the Unit's fourth visit to the district.

2,300 persons over 15 years of age were examined, the majority (1,800) being industrial workers.

The following abnormalities were found:-

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tuberculosis - healed	3	5	8
" - requiring occasional clinic supervision	3	-	3
" - requiring treatment or close clinic supervision	-	1	1
Malignant neoplasms	1	-	1
Sarcoids	1	-	1
Pneumconiosis with P.M.F.	1	-	1
Bronchiectasis	-	1	1
Fibrosis	-	1	1
Abnormalities of diaphragm	1	-	1
Miscellaneous abnormalities	1	1	2

## S E C T I O N   V

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

#### (1) WATER SUPPLY

This remains the responsibility of the Mid & South East Cheshire Water Board who provided the area throughout the year with a supply which was satisfactory both in quality and quantity, the water having no plumbo-solvent action.

13 samples of water were taken by the Health Department and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination. 12 samples were reported to be satisfactory and one doubtful - however, a repeat of the latter was satisfactory.

#### Distribution of Supplies

Each house has a tap and water laid on over a proper sink.

#### (2) SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The provision of new sewage works and sewers, which are urgently needed, is in the hands of the Council's Consulting Engineers. At the time of writing the stage has been reached where it will shortly be possible to go out to tender.

#### Closet Accommodation

There are only 9 pail closets in the whole of the district and these are situated some considerable distances from the sewers. When the above mentioned scheme is completed it will be possible to convert these to a water carriage system.

#### Public Conveniences

The only public conveniences in the town are situated in Leadsmithy Street. Efforts to find other sites continue to be unsuccessful.

#### (3) REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The Karrier dual-tip 18 cubic yard vehicle purchased in February, 1959, continued to give satisfaction. With the erection of more new houses with long drives this work increases and collections average about 10 days. The standard of dustbins at dwellings is well maintained and 105 new bins were sold during the year.

The refuse tip at Croxton was maintained in an excellent condition, plenty of soil being available for cover. Income from salvage sales amounted to £858. 7. 9d, of which £315 was profit. 10% of all salvage income is shared amongst the workmen.



## H O U S I N G

### (4) PROVISION OF NEW HOUSES

During the year 54 private houses were completed and the Council erected 6 one-bedroomed bungalows.

#### Housing in General

The number of inhabited houses at the end of the year was 2,174 and when considered in conjunction with the population it will be seen that the average number of persons per house is 3.19 as compared with 3.18 the previous year. Whilst 60 dwellings were erected this gave an increase of only 1, since houses demolished totalled 59. The Council now owns 602 dwellings of which 87 are bungalows, 25 being temporary dwellings. Of these bungalows 28 have one bedroom, 39 are 2 bed-roomed and 20 are 3 bed-roomed types.

There is very little overcrowding in the district and 3 cases reported to the Health Committee were re-housed by the Council.

Under the Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts the Council has made loans for the purchase of 168 houses, while 57 discretionary and 22 standard grants have been made for the improvement and modernisation of older houses.

The Council's total of 602 dwellings is 27.7% of all dwellings in the district.

No certificates of disrepair were issued in the year.

### (5) SLUM CLEARANCE

All houses scheduled to be dealt with in the 5 year slum clearance programme have now been dealt with making a total of 73 dwellings condemned which, with the exception of a few, have all been demolished.

After completion of the above programme 9 other houses were condemned and the Council was building 12 flats and 4 houses, some to be used to re-house families from these condemned properties.

Since 1948, a total of 136 dwellings have been condemned and 24 other houses have been either demolished or converted to other uses.

#### Housing Notices complied with:-

Defective drains repaired	...	...	11
Repairs to roofs and spouting	...	...	4
Repairs to defective closets	...	...	7
Repairs to defective floors	...	...	4
Renewal of dustbins	...	...	29

With the demolition of so many houses and the increasing number of owner/occupiers fewer complaints are being received each year. Since a much higher standard of housing now prevails, the health of the community must benefit with the removal of so many dark, damp and insanitary houses.

(6) CARAVAN SITES

There are no caravan sites in the district.

(7) COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There are no common lodging houses in the district.

(8) DESTRUCTION OF RATS AND MICE

All premises were inspected by the Rodent Operator at least once in the year and business premises, farms, factories, refuse tip and sewage works, etc., many times. A 10% test baiting of the sewers showed them to be free from infestation. Treatments at business premises are charged for but private dwellings are treated free of cost.

(9) SMOKE ABATEMENT

The Alkali Inspectorate have, since 1958, been responsible for control over smoke and grit emission from the furnaces used in the production of salt by the open pan method. A temporary certificate of exemption from Section 1 of the Clean Air Act, 1956, was renewed for a further year at the Brooks Lane Works of the Imperial Chemical Industries Ltd., in respect of two chimneys.

A taller chimney was installed to an oil fired boiler at a local dairy and an improved quality of oil used after representation by the Council.

(10) PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

There are no Pet Shops licenced in this district.

(11) RECREATIONAL FIELDS AND OPEN SPACES

All playingfields and open spaces were well maintained. Plans were in progress for a paddling pool at Fountain Fields which sports ground continues to be popular for tennis and bowling.

(12) PETROLEUM STORAGE

Twenty-four licences were issued in 1961 for the bulk storage of petroleum. One new installation was licenced and one ceased to be licenced due to age and condition.



S E C T I O N VI

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) MILK

On 1st October, 1960, the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations came into force.

The effect of these regulations was to transfer to the County Council the licensing of dealers for the sale of "Designated Milk", but the responsibility for registration remained that of the Local Authority.

The County Council now sample the milk sold by dealers in order to justify the licence issued, and the Local Authority is notified of the results.

57 samples of milk were taken during the year and all of them were satisfactory.

(b) ICE-CREAM

No ice-cream is manufactured in the district and the only ice-cream sold is wrapped or in tubs, cartons, etc., having been produced elsewhere.

18 samples of ice-cream taken in the Middlewich Urban District and submitted to the Chester Public Health Laboratory. All proved to be satisfactory.

(c) MEAT

There is no Public Abattoir in the district and only two private slaughterhouses were in use. A report under the Slaughterhouses Act, 1958, on slaughtering facilities was forwarded to the Ministry on the 21st October, 1960. This report was accepted by the Ministry on the 31st October, 1961, making the 1st January, 1962, the "appointed day" when the Construction Regulations would come into operation. The slaughterhouse of H. Driver, 64 Lewin Street, could not comply with the Regulations and ceased to be used. Newton Hall, licenced by Mr. J. Moss, was brought up to the standard and is now the only slaughterhouse in use in this district.

During the year 234 visits were made on 181 days to the two slaughterhouses. A 100% inspection of meat was achieved, but to do this varying periods on 23 Sundays and numerous evenings had to be worked. The Inspectors of the Northwich Rural District Council deputised for two weeks during the holidays of the Public Health Inspector. Once again it is pleasing to note that despite the large quantities of meat distributed in other districts, no complaints were received.

Tables of Carcasses and Offal  
Inspected and Condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number Killed	106	216	1588	215	1523
Number Inspected	106	216	1588	215	1523
<u>ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS &amp; CYSTICERI:</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	7	1	3	3
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	5	83	-	4	12
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis and cystercerci	4.72%	41.66%	.06%	3.26%	.99%
<u>TUBERCULOSIS ONLY:</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1	8	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	.94%	3.7%	-	-	-
<u>CYSTICERCOSIS:</u>					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	1	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	1	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with cysticerci	-	.92%	-	-	-

Offal Condemned (Cattle)

Heads and Tongues	...	...	7
Lungs	...	...	9
Livers	...	...	85
Kidneys	...	...	10
Hindquarters	...	...	4
Forequarters	...	...	1

Parts Pigs

Hindquarters	...	...	2
Plucks	...	...	11

Parts Sheep

Plucks	...	...	8
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It is interesting to note that with the exception of various offal from nine T.B. reactors, no tuberculosis was found in any cattle or pigs.

Disposal of Unsound Food

Condemned meat at Slaughterhouses is stained green and then sold for animal feeding stuffs via an approved agent. Condemned tinned foods etc. at shops are collected by Council workmen and buried in the tip.



## FOOD PREMISES

The under-mentioned food premises are in use in the Middlewich area:-

Butchers Shops	...	...	...	...	...	7
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	4
Licensed Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	2
Fish and Chip Shops..	...	...	...	...	...	4
Fresh Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	2
(Some butchers also sell fresh fish and some grocers etc. sell frozen pre-packed fish)						
Chocolates and Sweets	...	...	...	...	...	8
Grocery Shops	...	...	...	...	...	33
(Many grocers also sell some greengrocery & Sweets)						
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	6
(Most greengrocers also sell some grocery)						
Chemists shops	...	...	...	...	...	2
Public Houses	...	...	...	...	...	14
Clubs and Licensed Bars	...	...	...	...	...	4
Off Licences for sale of wines etc.	...	...	...	...	...	3

## Registered under Section 16 Food & Drugs Act, 1955.

For retail sale of wrapped ice-cream	...	...	26
For retail sale of sausages, meat pies, etc.	...	...	15
Dairies registered under Milk & Dairies Regulations, 1949-54	...	...	2

All bakehouses and food premises are regularly inspected and are maintained in a satisfactory condition. It is gratifying to find shopkeepers generally doing their utmost to protect food on their premises in accordance with the Food Hygiene Regulations.

The following, based upon a statement by the County Council Weights and Measures Inspectors, is a summary of other samples obtained in the Middlewich Urban District during the year, 1961:-

Nature of Samples	Number Obtained	Number adulterated or not up to the recognised standard of quality
Coconut (Desiccated)	1	-
Eucalyptus Oil B.P.	1	-
Fish Paste (Salmon Spread)	1	-
Gravy Browning	1	-
Milk (Fresh)	15	1
Orange Drink (Whole)	1	-
Pepper (White)	1	-
Sausage (Beef)	1	-
Soda (Bicarb. of)	1	-
TOTAL	23	1

Particulars of Adulterated/Non-Standard Samples

Milk - Sample of milk containing sand - Caution

SHOPS

Condemnation notes were issued in respect of the following:-

28 lbs. Tongue  
36.lbs. Cooked Ham  
16 tins Vegetables  
24 lbs. Apples  
16 lbs. Jam  
36 lbs. Fruit

FACTORIES INSPECTION

(1) Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspector).

Premises	No. on Register	No. of Inspections	No. of	
			Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	-	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	41	18	2	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority, excluding outworkers' premises	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	41	18	2	-

2. Cases in which defects were found:

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temp. (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	-	1	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	-	-	-
(c) Not sep. for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	2	2	-	1	-

INDUSTRY :

No new industries have come into the town during the year, but further extensions are progressing at Cerebos and Steventons Potteries. In the textiles Messrs. Coupes have commenced work on a new factory in Southway.

F. SEYMOUR.

Medical Officer of Health.

F. COSTELLO.

Public Health Inspector.



